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**DRAFT SCREENING SITE INVESTIGATION  
FOR THE  
SCHUYLKILL VALLEY METALS SITE  
501 WASHINGTON STREET  
CONSHOHOCKEN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
ECKEL SITE NUMBER 46**

Prepared for

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3  
Hazardous Property Cleanup Division  
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Philadelphia, PA 19103

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Remedial Action Contract No. 68-S7-3002  
Work Assignment No. 048-PAPA-03ZZ  
Project No. I4185.47502.0903

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under Remedial Action Contract (RAC) No. 68-S7-3002, Work Assignment No. 048-PAPA-03ZZ, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 tasked Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tt), to assist EPA Region 3 in the assessment of properties suspected to have been former lead smelter foundries. Tt subcontracted completion of this work assignment to Tetra Tech EM Inc. (Tetra Tech).

Former lead smelter sites nationwide were identified in an April 2001 article published in the American Journal of Public Health by Eckel, and others (Eckel study) (Reference [Ref.] 1). The majority of these lead smelters operated prior to 1964 and closed before the current environmental regulations were instituted. As part of the Eckel study, soil samples were collected from several of the identified former lead smelter properties. Results from the analysis of these soil samples indicated that concentrations of lead exceeded EPA's recommended screening level for lead in residential soils. The results of the Eckel study indicate that the air disposition of lead into soils from the former smelter operations may present an ongoing public health concern due to exposure of residential populations, especially children, located in the vicinity of these former lead smelters, to soils containing elevated concentrations of lead (Refs. 1, 2, and 3).

The Eckel study identified 77 properties that may have been formerly used as lead smelters within EPA Region 3 (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia). EPA Region 3 is currently investigating these 77 properties. The objective of EPA's investigation of these properties is to (1) determine the potential for lead-contaminated soil to be present at the former lead smelter site or nearby properties (2) identify any populations that may be at risk to exposure to this soil, and (3) determine if soil sampling is warranted at any of these sites or nearby properties.

The following activities were completed as part of the initial screening investigation of each of these former lead smelter sites: (1) verify the former lead smelter address listed in the Eckel study through historical Sanborn fire insurance maps, tax parcel information, and/or contacting local agencies, (2) determine if the site is listed in EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database, (3) determine through census information and existing maps the number of schools, daycare centers or recreational parks that exist near the former lead smelter site, (4) determine the population residing within a 4-mile radius of the site, (5) conduct a windshield reconnaissance of the site and surrounding area to document the current land use, identify any exposed soil and verify the existence of any schools, daycare centers or parks in the immediate area, and (6) review all information acquired to determine if the collection and analysis of soil samples is warranted at the site or at any nearby property.

This report summarizes the findings of the tasks outlined above for the former lead smelter known as the Schuylkill Valley Metals site located at 501 Washington Street in Conshohocken, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, 19428. Each former smelter property was given a number in Eckel's study. The Eckel study number for this site is 46 (Ref. 1).

## **2.0 SITE LOCATION**

The former Schuylkill Valley Metals facility was located at 501 Washington Street at the intersection of Washington and Cherry Streets in Conshohocken, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, 19428. The geographic coordinates of the former Schuylkill Valley Metals facility are 40.071356 north latitude and 75.301465 west longitude on the Norristown, Pennsylvania Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, United States Geological Survey topographic map (see Appendix A, Figure 1). The site is not currently listed in EPA's CERCLIS database (Ref. 4). An aerial photograph of the vicinity of the former lead smelter site has been included in Appendix A, Figure 2. This aerial photograph reveals the exposed soils and any identified areas of potential concern such as schools, daycare centers, or parks located within a half-mile radius of the site.

### 3.0 SITE OBSERVATIONS

On February 20, 2006 Tetra Tech completed a non-sampling windshield reconnaissance of the Schuylkill Valley Metals site and surrounding area. A photographic record of the current site conditions is included in Appendix B. Figure 3, shows the current layout of the site and surrounding area as observed during Tetra Tech's site reconnaissance. The following observations were recorded:

- The subject property is located directly north of the Schuylkill River in a mixed commercial, industrial area of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.
- The subject property is currently an unpaved, open lot covered in scrap metal and miscellaneous debris. A wooden fence borders the property on the western side.
- Directly surrounding the subject property is Washington Street and railroad tracks to the north, an industrial property to the east, the Schuylkill River to the south, and the newly constructed River Walk at Millennium apartment buildings to the west.
- Exposed soil was observed on the subject property and in the immediate vicinity on the surrounding industrial properties.
- No schools, parks, or daycare facilities were identified in the immediate vicinity of the site.



#### 4.0 POTENTIAL TARGETS

Potential targets identified that may be exposed to lead-contaminated soils remaining in the vicinity of the former Schuylkill Valley Metals site include any workers that may be employed at or in the nearby vicinity of the site. The property that currently consists of the newly-constructed Riverwalk at Millenium apartment buildings underwent a targeted brownfields assessment; therefore, any issues regarding elevated lead concentrations have been adequately addressed. The population within a 4-mile radius of the site is summarized in the table below (Ref. 5).

**Population within a Four-mile Radius of the Site**

<b>Distance Ring (miles)</b>	<b>Population (number of persons)</b>
0.0 to 0.25	1,172
0.25 to 0.5	1,959
0.5 to 1.0	7,288
1.0 to 2.0	13,767
2.0 to 3.0	23,157
3.0 to 4.0	64,304

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce. Landview V Environmental Mapping Software based on the Bureau of Census 2000 Population Data. December 6, 2005.

No schools, daycare centers, parks, or recreational areas have been identified in the area directly surrounding the site. No daycare facilities were identified within one-half mile of the site. Three schools, Conshohocken Elementary, Saint Matthews, and Saint Mary's Catholic School, have been identified within one-half mile of the site. The three schools are all approximately one-quarter mile north of the site. Mary Wood Park is located approximately one-third mile north the site.

## 5.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The site is located in a mixed commercial, industrial, residential area of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. Exposed soils were observed in the vicinity of the former location of the lead smelter; however, potential targets identified in the area are limited to workers. The nearest residential area to the site is the Riverwalk at Millenium apartment buildings. The property where these apartments were constructed underwent a targeted brownsfields assessment; therefore, any issues regarding elevated lead concentrations have been adequately addressed. No schools, daycare centers, parks, or recreational areas have been identified in the area directly surrounding the former lead smelter. Due to the lack of potential targets in the vicinity of the former lead smelter the collection and analysis of soil samples is not recommended for this site at this time.

## REFERENCES

1. Eckel, W.P., Rabinowitz, M.B., Foster, G.D. American Journal of Public Health. "Discovering Unrecognized Lead-Smelting Sites by Historical Methods". April 2001.
2. Pennsylvania Department of Health. Suspected Former Lead Smelter Sites: A Potential Risk Factor for Childhood Lead Poisoning. August 2004.
3. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Revised Interim Soil Lead Guidance for CERCLA Sites and RCRA Corrective Action Facilities. OSWER Directive 9355.4-12. July 14, 1994.
4. U.S. EPA. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Information System (CERCLIS) database. On-Line Address: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/srchsites.cfm>
5. U.S. Census Bureau. State and County Quick Facts. Accessed On-Line on December 6, 2005. On-Line Address: [quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/42.html](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/42.html).

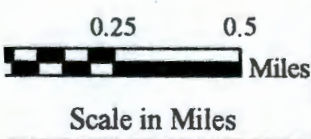
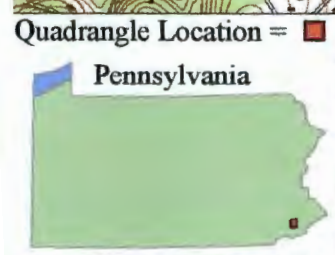
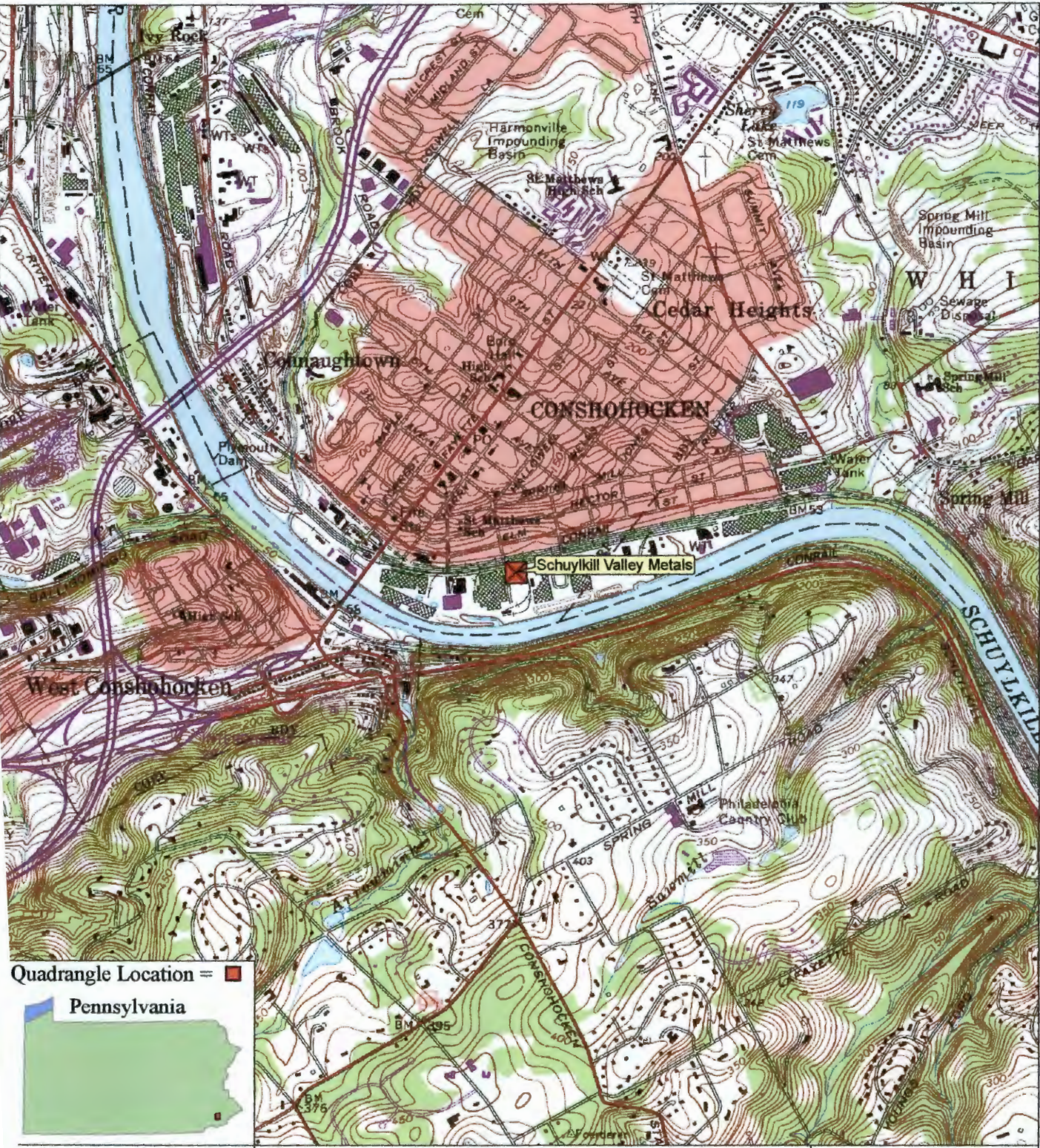


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## **APPENDIX A**

### **Figures**





**Schuylkill Valley Metals**  
**501 Washington Street**  
**Conshohocken, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania**  
**Eckel Site No. 46**



**Figure 1**  
**Site Location Map**

Source: Modified from USGS 7.5-Minute Series Topographic Quadrangle, Norristown, Pennsylvania 1966, Photorevised 1983







**Legend**

- Approximate Site Location
- School
- ⋯ 0.5-Mile Radius
- Parks

0 500 1,000  
Feet

Scale in Feet

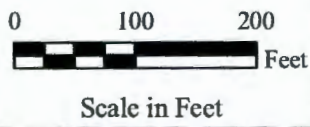
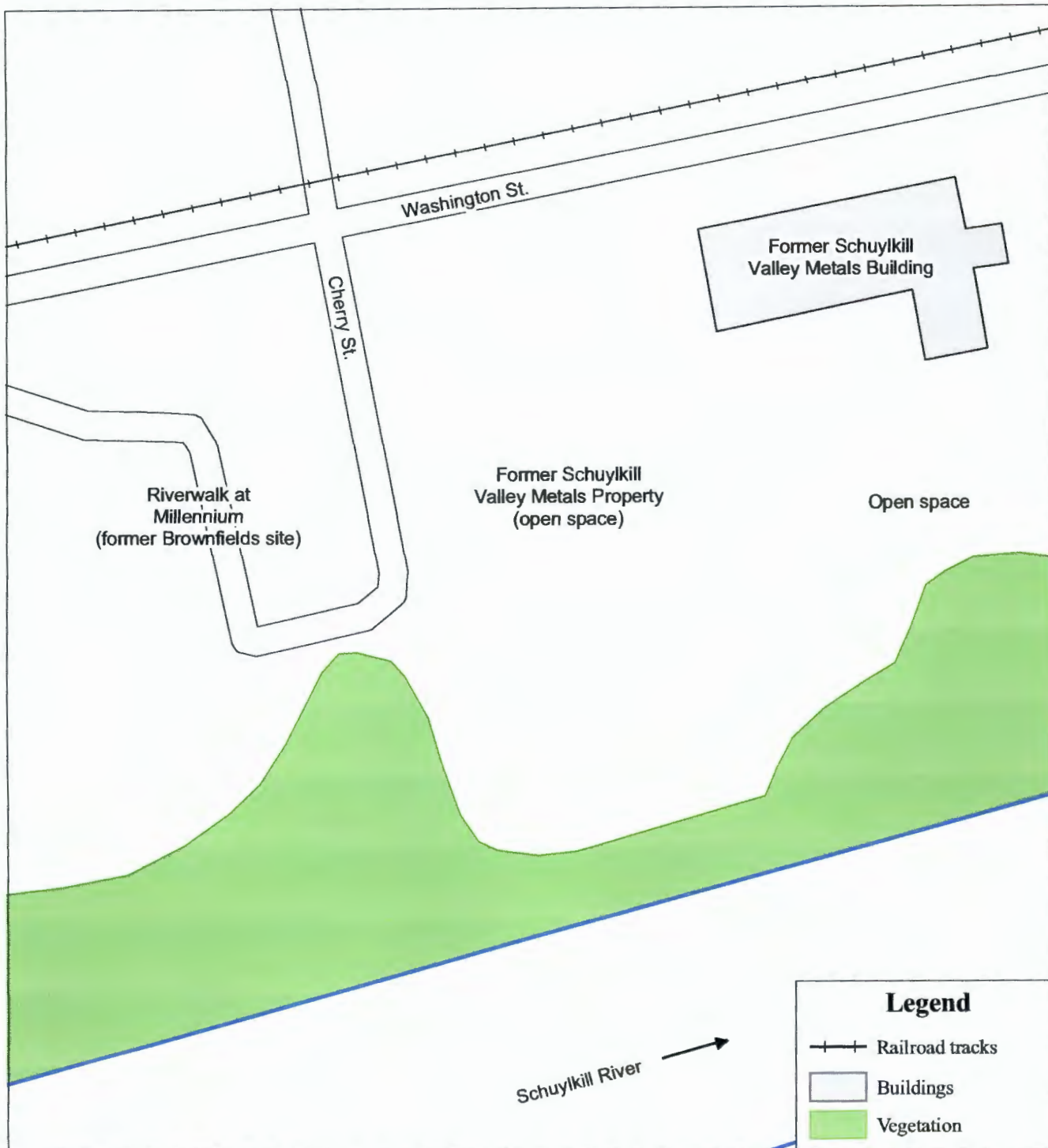
Schuylkill Valley Metals  
501 Washington Street  
Conshohocken, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania  
Eckel Site No. 46



**Figure 2**  
Aerial Photograph

Source: Modified from Digital Orthophoto (DOQQ) MrSID mosaic for Norristown Quadrangle (NAPP III, 1997-2001)





Schuylkill Valley Metals  
501 Washington Street  
Conshohocken, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania  
Eckel Site No. 46



**Figure 3**  
Site Layout

Source: Modified from Digital Orthophoto (DOQQ) MrSID mosaic, 1999.





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## **APPENDIX B**

### **Photographic Documentation**





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## ***Photographic Documentation***

**Site Name:** Schuylkill Valley Metal – Eckel Number 46

**Location:** 501 Washington Street, Conshohocken,  
Pennsylvania

**Prepared by:** Tetra Tech EM Inc.

**Photographer:** Amy Lentz

### **Photograph No. 1**

**Photograph Date:**  
February 20, 2006

**Description:** Northern part of the former Schuylkill Valley Metals site property. The property is a large open dirt lot currently undergoing construction activities.



### **Photograph No. 2**

**Photograph Date:**  
February 20, 2006

**Description:** Southern view of the former Schuylkill Valley Metals site property. The wooden fence and River Walk at Millennium Apartments along Cherry St. can be seen to the right of this photo.





## ***Photographic Documentation***

**Site Name:** Schuylkill Valley Metal – Eckel Number 46

**Location:** 501 Washington Street, Conshohocken,  
Pennsylvania

**Prepared by:** Tetra Tech EM Inc.

**Photographer:** Amy Lentz

### **Photograph No. 3**

**Photograph Date:**

February 20, 2006



**Description:** Looking west at  
the apartments at the intersection  
of Washington and Cherry Street.

### **Photograph No. 4**

**Photograph Date:**

February 20, 2006



**Description:** View from site  
facing north.